
AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Short-Answer Question 1

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Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

[a] Identify ONE argument that the author makes in the **first paragraph**. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Muslims wrote more history than Jews and Christians in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.
[Note: This may be credited for **either** part (a) **or** part (b) but **not** for both.]
- The author argues that the establishment of the Islamic caliphates in the seventh and eighth centuries was one factor that led to the enormous amount of history writing in the Islamic world.
- The author claims that Muslim states and elites promoted history writing in the Islamic world.
- The author claims that Muslim readers wanted historical narratives about religious and political figures.

[b] Identify ONE piece of evidence that the author uses to support an argument in the passage. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The author states that many Muslim historians wrote biographies of the Prophet Muhammad and other religious figures to reinforce traditional religious institutions.
 - The author says that during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries Muslims wrote more histories than Christians or Jews wrote.
[Note: This may be credited for **either** part (a) **or** part (b) but **not** for both.]
 - The author states that rulers, their courts, and urban elites were the main audiences for Muslim histories.
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| [c] | Explain how ONE development in the period 1200–1750 could be used to support the author’s argument in the second paragraph about history writing and art creation legitimizing states’ exercise of power. | 1 point |
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Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Rulers often sponsored historical writing that praised the actions of their dynasties and ancestors to increase the political legitimacy of their state.
- The Abbasid Caliphate supported scholars in the House of Wisdom in Baghdad to legitimize their power.
- Rulers used religious ideas, art, and monumental architecture to legitimize their rule.

Total for question 1 3 points

- a. The author, Chase F. Robinson, argues that the impact of Islamic historical writing significantly outweighs the literature written by Jewish or Christian authors.
- b. The authors supports his main argument by stating that numerous religious biographies were published, concerning a variety of religious figures and the pivotal Prophet Muhammad, due to the influence of religious institutions during the time period. He writes, "Many were enthusiastic about those forms [of historical writing] that reinforced traditional religious institutions...and attitudes. In practice, this meant that they wrote a great many [biographies] of religious figures and of the Prophet [Muhammad]".
- c. A development in the period 1200 - 1750 which supports Robinson's argument that works of historical writing and the use of art can legitimize states' power is the construction of the Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan. The construction of the Taj Mahal is often considered one of the greatest excercises of art and architecture to legitimize Mughal rule. Its lavishness and splendor was effective in legitimizing Mughal, Islamic rule in a majority Hindu state.

- A) One argument that the author made was that many people were enthusiastic about the forms of history writing that reinforced traditional religious institutions.
- B) One piece of evidence that the author uses to support this argument is that that people wrote many biographies of religious figures and of the Phrophet.
- C) One development that supports the author's argument is the Prophet of Muhammad.

A. One argument that the author makes in the first paragraph is that empire building established a market for those that desired historical writing.

B. One piece of evidence that the author uses to support an argument in the passage is Prophet Muhammad.

C. One development that could be used to support the author's argument is monumental architecture.

Short Answer Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

Students were expected to answer three questions based on a passage from a secondary source by Chase F. Robinson regarding history writing in Muslim societies during the period circa 1200–1750. For part (a), students were to identify a claim made by the author in the first paragraph of the passage. For part (b), students were asked to identify one piece of evidence that the author uses to support an argument he makes in the passage. Finally for part (c), students were to explain how one historical development in the period circa 1200–1750 could support the author’s argument in the passage that history writing and art creation in Muslim societies served to legitimize state power.

The question tested content primarily from Units 1 and 2 of the course framework although students could also leverage knowledge from Unit 2, especially in their responses to part (c). The question primarily addressed content from Topics 1.2, 3.2, and 3.3.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for task (a) for identifying the author’s claim that “Islamic historical writing significantly outweighs the literature written by Jewish or Christian authors.”

The response earned 1 point for task (b) for identifying the author’s evidence that numerous religious biographies were published including those of the Prophet Muhammad.

The response earned 1 point for task (c) by explaining the Taj Mahal is an example of how Mughals legitimized their rule.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for task (a) by identifying the author’s claim that people were enthusiastic about history writing that reinforced religious institutions.

The response earned 1 point for task (b) for identifying the evidence that people wrote biographies of religious figures and of the Prophet.

The response did not earn the point for task (c) because identifying the “Prophet of Muhammad” is not explaining a development that supports the author’s argument in the second paragraph.

Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for task (a) for identifying the author's claim that empire building established a market for historical writing.

The response did not earn the point for task (b) because the author's evidence is about biographies of the Prophet, not the person of the Prophet.

The response did not earn the point for task (c) because it neglects to explain how monumental architecture could support the author's argument about legitimizing states' exercise of power.